

October 29, 2019

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO:

Jason Leopold

Dear Mr. Leopold:

This letter is the final response to your November 18, 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the office of the United States Secret Service (USS).

You were requesting:

"any and all records, which includes but is not limited to Intelligence bulletins, threat assessments, reports, emails, memoranda, in the possession of certain divisions of the Department of Homeland Security (see offices this request is addressed to above) that mentions or refers to the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, the shooting death of African American teenager Michael Brown and the pending Grand jury decision in the case against Ferguson Police Department officer Darren Wilson.

A search of USS records responsive to your request produced thirty (30) responsive pages that were jointly produced by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The records were subsequently sent to both I&A and the FBI for review. After review of those documents, I have determined that those pages will be released pursuant to Exemptions of the FOIA as described below. Based on the review of these documents, I&A is providing the following:

- <u>3</u> pages are withheld in full (WIF)
- <u>17</u> pages are withheld in part and released in part (WIP)
- <u>10</u> pages are released in full (RIF)

Freedom of Inform	Privacy Act,		
			5 U.S.C. § 552a
552(b)(1)	552(b)(5)	552(b)(7)(C)	552a(j)(2)
552(b)(2)	∑ 552(b)(6)	552(b)(7)(D)	552a(k)(2)
∑ 552(b)(3)	∑ 552(b)(7)(A)	∑ 552(b)(7)(E)	
552(b)(4)	552(b)(7)(B)	552(b)(7)(F)	Other:

# **FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3)**

FOIA Exemption 3 protects "information specifically exempted from disclosure by [another] statute." *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3). In this instance 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i) and 6 U.S.C. § 121(d)(11) exempts information regarding intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

# FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

FOIA Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure personnel or medical files and similar files the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This requires a balancing of the public's right to disclosure against the individual's right privacy. The privacy interests of the individuals in the records you have requested outweigh any minimal public interest in disclosure of the information. Any private interest you may have in that information does not factor into the aforementioned balancing test.

# **FOIA Exemption 7(A), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A)**

FOIA Exemption 7(A) protects from disclosure records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings. The information you are seeking relates to an ongoing criminal law enforcement investigation. Therefore, all such records, documents, and/or other material, which if disclosed prior to completion, could reasonably be expected to interfere with law enforcement proceedings and final agency actions related to those proceedings will be withheld. Please be advised that once all pending matters are resolved and FOIA Exemption 7(A) is no longer applicable, there may be other exemptions which could protect certain information from disclosure, such as FOIA Exemptions 7(C), 7(D), and 7(E).

# **FOIA Exemption 7(E), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E)**

Exemption 7(E) protects all law enforcement information that "would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecution, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecution if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law." *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E). I&A is invoking Exemption 7(E) to protect law enforcement techniques or procedures

You have a right to appeal the above withholding decision.<sup>1</sup> Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter, to: Privacy Office, Attn: FOIA Appeals, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, SW, Mail Stop 0655, Washington, D.C. 20528-0655, following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 C.F.R. Part 5 § 5.8. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS FOIA regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

You may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center for the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), as well as the Public Liaison, Brendan Henry for any further assistance; to discuss any aspect of your request; to discuss reformulation of your request; and/or to discuss an alternative time frame for the processing of your request at:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) Email: I&AFOIA@HQ.DHS.GOV Telephone: (202) 282-8826 Refer to 2019-IAFO-00105

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA dispute resolution services it offers. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS College Park, Maryland 20740-6001

Email: ogis@nara.gov Telephone: 202-741-5770 Toll free: 1-877-684-6448

Fax: 202-741-5769

Please note that contacting any agency official (including the FOIA analyst, FOIA Requester Service Center, FOIA Public Liaison) and/or OGIS **is not** an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and **does not** stop the 90-day appeal clock.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Waters

Pricilla Waters Assistant FOIA Officer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* U.S.C. 552© (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.





# JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



16 April 2015

# (U//FQUO) Twenty Years after Oklahoma City Bombing, Domestic Extremism Remains a Persistent Threat

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB) prepared by the FBI and DHS is intended to provide law enforcement with a summary of significant domestic extremist incidents occurring during the previous 15 months. This product highlights the breadth and frequency of current domestic extremist threats against Homeland targets, and places them in the context of the 20th anniversary of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This information is provided to support the activities of the FBI and DHS and to assist other federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials and private sector security officials in identifying existing or emerging threats to homeland security.



<sup>(</sup>U) Wearning: The decorates is CHICLESTREDITOR OFFICIAL USE DNC1 (CHICOLO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the freedom of information fact (5 U.C. SS2). It is to be converted, seared, handled, consumered, devoluted, and depasted of in assurdance with 0HS paley releasing to FUSD efformation and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other parameter who do not have a reliable end to know without prim approach of an authorized DHS official. State and local homeland sucurity official times that all the reliable ends infrastructure and key resource parameter and primate section when the first parameter ends and primate section with the parameter of t

<sup>(</sup>L) This product content US person information that has been denined necessary for the intended recipient to understand, assets, or not no live information formation. Since here highly and or this decoment with the label series and about the lampest in accordance with the majority in accordance of the majority in accordance with the majority in acc

#### (U) Overview

(U) On 19 April 1995, at approximately 9:02 a.m., an improvised explosive device placed in a rented truck destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killing 168 people and wounding hundreds of others. Timothy McVeigh and co-conspirator Terry Nicholsuspen were subsequently held responsible for the attack. McVeigh was convicted in federal court of a total of 11 counts, including murder and use of a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). He was executed in June 2001. Nichols was convicted in federal court of conspiracy to use a WMD and several counts of involuntary manslaughter. He received a sentence of life in prison.

(U//FOUO) Twenty years later, the Oklahoma City Bombing remains the deadliest mass casualty attack in US history carried out by domestic extremists on US soil. Domestic extremism, however,

(UIIFOUO) The FBI and DHS have no specific, credible reporting to indicate domestic extremists are planning on conducting attacks on or related to the 19 April anniversary date of the Oklahama City bombing.

remains a persistent threat, and the United States has experienced violent ideologically-motivated criminal acts, both prior to and after the Oklahoma City attack. These acts include assaults, arsons, shootings, and use, or attempted use, of improvised incendiary and explosive devices, resulting in death, injury, and property damage. Many of the same motivations used by domestic extremists to justify their criminal acts in the mid-1990s—anti-government and anti-law enforcement sentiment; racial, ethnic, and religious hatred; and advocacy of violent conspiracy theories—continue to influence domestic extremists and their targeting choices in 2015.

(U//FOUO) To understand the scale of the current threat, FBI and DHS have compiled a list of significant domestic extremist incidents and disrupted plots occurring since January 2014. These events, conducted by individuals inside the United States in furtherance of political or social agendas without foreign direction, are criminal and violent in nature and caused, or could have reasonably caused death, grievous harm, or financial losses of at least \$1 million.

- (U) Significant Plots and Incidents Occurring from 1 January 2014 to 1 April 2015
  - » (U) 23 March 2015, Austin, Texas: A suspected domestic extremist threw a bottle containing flammable liquid out of a car window into a small group of pro-life protestors gathered outside a reproductive healthcare center. The bottle landed in the grass and the resulting fire self-extinguished. The individual is being charged locally with aggravated assault.
  - » (U//FOUO) 14 February 2015, Elkins, West Virginia: The FBI arrested a domestic extremist for possession of stolen C-4 explosives after authorities received information that he allegedly planned to detonate it at various locations, including the Federal Courthouse in Elkins, West Virginia.

<sup>&</sup>quot;(U) Please see the Appendix for a list of definitions of terms used in this JIB.

- » (U//FOUO) 6 February 2015, Chicago, Illinois: Animal rights extremist(s) are suspected of setting fire to two separate horse carriage storage areas at a horse stable in Chicago, Illinois, causing damage to the building structure and completely destroyed 13 carriages. Losses were estimated at over \$130,000. The building was occupied by two people and four horses at the time of the arson, but no injuries were reported. A federal investigation is currently ongoing.
- » (U//FOUO) 30 December 2014, Dothan, Alabama: Local police shot and killed Sovereign Citizen Extremist (SCE) Robert Earl Lawrence, whose apparent ideologicallydriven conduct at a business led to a physical altercation with law enforcement officers.
- » (U//FOUO) 28 November 2014, Austin, Texas: Larry Steven McQuilliams engaged in a late-night shooting spree that targeted a Federal Court House, a bank, the Consulate General of Mexico, and the Austin, Texas Police Department (APD) headquarters building, where he was shot and killed by an APD officer. The subject also attempted to set fire to camp-style gas cylinders at the Mexican Consulate. McQuilliams' criminal acts may have been in furtherance of ideologies associated with white supremacist extremism.
- » (U/FOUO) 7 November 2014, St. Louis, Missouri: The FBI St. Louis Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) disrupted alleged plots by two domestic extremists, one of whom also claimed to be a Moorish sovereign citizen, to kill the Ferguson, Missouri police chief and a St. Louis County Prosecutor, and to conduct an explosives attack against the Gateway Arch. Federal authorities indicted both subjects in April 2015 for attempting to damage or destroy real or personal property by means of an explosive.
- » (U//FOUO) 23 October 2014, New York, New York: Domestic extremist Zale H. Thompson attacked four white New York City police officers with a hatchet, striking one officer in the forearm and another in the head. Thompson was shot and killed by officers during the attack. Thompson may have been motivated by multiple ideologies, one of the most prevalent of which was black separatist extremism.
- » (U//FOUO) 25 September 2014, Moore, Oklahoma: A suspected domestic extremist attacked co-workers with a knife, killing and beheading one individual and injuring a second person. The subject faces state murder and assault charges.
- (U//FOUO) 23 September 2014, Snohomish, Washington: Suspected environmental extremists attempted to topple a tower carrying power lines. Graffiti at the scene included the anarchist "A" symbol and the moniker "ELF" (a likely reference to the Earth Liberation Front). The tower was significantly damaged by the attempt but did not fall. If it had fallen, it likely would have landed on a busy highway and power for an estimated 1 million customers would have been disrupted for approximately three days. Repair costs are estimated between \$100,000 and \$1 million. No suspects have been apprehended at this time.
- » (U//FOUO) 12 September 2014, Blooming Grove, Pennsylvania: A suspected domestic extremist ambushed and shot two state troopers, killing one trooper, as they exited the Pennsylvania State Police Blooming Grove Barracks. Current state charges include murder, attempted murder, use of a WMD, and terrorism.

- » (U//FOUO) 14 June 2014, Nevada County, California: A 5CE exchanged gunfire with a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ranger and California Highway Patrol Officer, likely in response to their attempt to impound a stolen motorcycle from an illegal campsite on BLM-administered land. All three individuals were injured during the incident. The subject was charged with assault and illegal discharge of a firearm. The subject was found guilty of federal charges in February 2015; sentencing is scheduled for May 2015.
- » (U//FOUO) 8 June 2014, Las Vegas, Nevada: Domestic extremists Jerad and Amanda Miller shot and killed two Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers at a restaurant in Las Vegas, Nevada. The assailants subsequently entered a nearby retail store where they shot and killed a third person. One assailant was killed in an exchange of gunfire with Las Vegas police, the other died from suicide after sustaining gunshot wounds.
- » (U//FOUO) 13 April 2014, Overland Park, Kansas: A white supremacist extremist allegedly shot and killed two individuals outside a Jewish community center and a third person at a Jewish retirement center. Responding officers arrested the individual, who is charged with capital murder. The case is currently being adjudicated in state court.
- » (U//FOUO) 12 April 2014, Bunkerville, Nevada: Dozens of militia extremists converged on a Nevada ranch to prevent BLM from executing a court order to seize cattle in a dispute over unpaid grazing fees. These militia extremists joined non-violent militia groups—and individuals from across the country—who reacted to reports about altercations between BLM personnel and the rancher's family and supporters that alleged unnecessary excess on the part of the US Government. Domestic extremist efforts culminated in an armed standoff and the ultimate suspension of the BLM operation due to militia extremist threats.
- » (U//FOUO) 27 March 2014, Katy, Texas: An FBI JTTF disrupted a militia extremist plot to attack mosques and public buildings and inflict multiple casualties in an attempt to restore America to a "pre-Constitutional" status. One individual, who hoped to purchase weapons and ammunition with funds generated from bank robberies, was arrested while en route to rob an armored car. The subject pleaded guilty in October 2014 to one count of attempted interference with commerce by robbery and one count of solicitation to commit a crime of violence.
- » (U//FOUO) 25 March 2014, Middleburg Heights, Ohio: Sheriff's deputies shot and killed SCE Israel Rondon at his home after he brandished a .22 caliber rifle, likely in an attempt to avoid arrest during the execution of a warrant for a probation violation.
- » (U//FOUO) 22 March 2014, Seattle, Washington: Suspected animal rights extremist(s) stole confidential information belonging to a biomedical research firm and provided the information to animal rights organizations, news media, and potential company clients. The theft and unauthorized data release occurred during a time when the company was developing new contracts, resulting in estimated losses exceeding \$1 million. The case remains unsolved.
- » (U) 15 February 2014, Rome, Georgia: Federal, state, and local authorities arrested three militia extremists who attempted to illegally purchase explosives to

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(U//FOU	O) FBI and DHS assess with high confidence t	hat (b) (7)(E), (b)(3)				
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### (U) Appendix: Definitions Used in this Bulletin

(U//FOUO) Domestic Extremists: individuals present in the United States who seek to further political or social goals, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected. This definition does not include or describe homegrown violent extremists, who are defined by the FBI as al-Qa'ida-inspired individuals based in the United States and radicalized primarily in the United States, and are not directly collaborating with a foreign terrorist organization.

(U//FOUO) Animal Rights Extremists: individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their opposition to people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be exploiting or abusing animals. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

(U//FOUO) Black Separatist Extremists: individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to attain separation from the non-black US population. This separation includes, but is not limited to, physical separation, political separation, or social separation as demonstrated by separate communities, political institutions, or social organizations. This desire for separation is typically based on either a religious or political belief system, which is sometimes formed around or includes a belief in racial superiority or supremacy. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

(U//FOUO) Environmental Extremists: individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their opposition to people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be destroying, degrading, or exploiting the natural environment. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

(U//FOUO) Lone Offenders: individuals who, operating alone or without the witting support of others, seek to advance, wholly or in part, a particular ideology or social agenda through unlawful acts of force or violence in violation of federal law.

(U//FOUO) Militia Extremists: individuals who seek, wholly or in part, to engage in unlawful acts of force or violence in response to perceived abuses of power or authority by government, perceived threats to Constitutional rights by government, or bureaucratic incompetence in attending to critical tasks. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

(U//FOUO) Sovereign Citizen Extremists: individuals who openly reject their US citizenship status, believe that most forms of established government, authority, and institutions are illegitimate, and seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their claim to be immune from government authority. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

(U//FOUO) White Supremacist Extremists: individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to support their belief in the intellectual and moral superiority of the white race over other races. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

#### (U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR initiative, visit http://insi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx.

#### (U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this intelligence bulletin is for official use only. No portion of this bulletin should be released to the media, the general public, or over non-secure internet servers. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section by e-mail at FBI\_CTAS@ic.fbi.gov or the I&A Production Branch by e-mail at IA.PM@hq.dhs.gov.

(U) Tracked by: (b) (7)(E



# Office of Archigence and Analysis 💞 Customer Feedback Form

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Product's overall usefulness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Product's relevance to your mission	0	0	0	0	0	0
Product's timeliness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REV: 29 October 2014 Produ Number: 14-0163-15





# JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



28 April 2015

# (U//FOUO) Anarchist Extremists Likely to Exploit I May Events for Violent Activity

# (U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB) is intended to provide information on the potential threat of anarchist extremist violence during events on the I May "International Workers Day"—also known as May Day—and is a response to prior US anarchist extremist violent incidents on I May in three of the last five years.' This information is provided to support the activities of DHS and the FBI and to assist other federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials in identifying protective and support measures relating to existing or emerging threats to homeland security.

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this IIB is current as of 28 April 2015.

<sup>(</sup>U) DHS and FBI define anarchist extremists as individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their opposition to all forms of capitalism, corporate globalization, and governing institutions, which they perceive as harmful to society. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhesoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

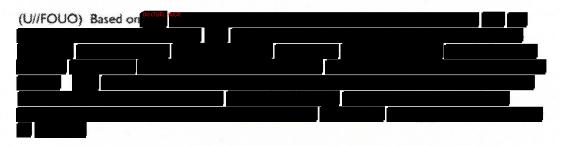


#### (U) Overview



» (U//FOUO) "International Workers' Day"—also known as May Day and observed on May 1st of each year—is an international day honoring workers' rights that frequently results in anarchist extremist violence both domestically and internationally. The event in the United States commemorates the 1886 anarchist extremist-instigated Haymarket Riots in Chicago, Illinois which resulted in the death of numerous individuals.

### (U) Threat

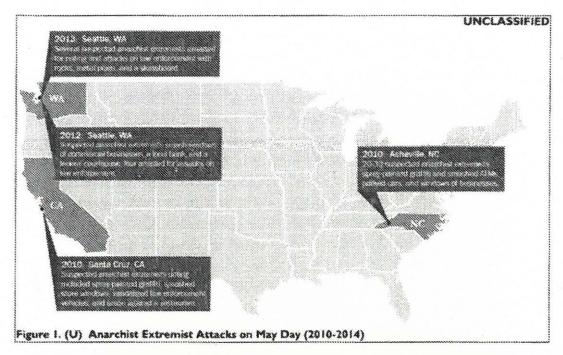


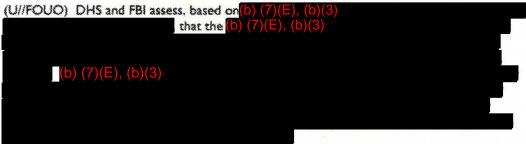
(U//LES) US anarchist extremists are known or suspected of having committed four attacks on I May since 2010, according to (b) (7)(E), (b)(3)

<sup>\*(</sup>U) May Day is also a date of significance to the wider anarchist movement, and other groups which are nonviolent and not the focus of this paper.

<sup>† (</sup>U//FOUO) Although US anarchist extremist violence can occur at any time, more violent attacks occur on 1 May than any other day of the year.

[D)(3), (b) (7)(E)





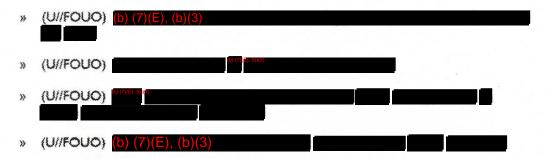
- (U) In October 2014, "some Bull City anarchists" chained the front door and glued the locks to a parking lot at a government facility in Durham, North Carolina, (5)(3), (5) (7)(5)
  The graffiti on the front of the building stated "Solidarity with Missouri Rebels" and "[Expletive] the Police."
- » (U//FOUO) In September 2014, a suspected anarchist extremist in Kansas City, Missouri was arrested on federal weapons charges for allegedly throwing a hammer and then two Molotov cocktails through the window of the office of a US Member of Congress earlier that month. A note found at the subject's residence by law enforcement indicated the attack was at least partially committed in solidarity with the people of Ferguson, Missouri. Local Law Enforcement suspects that he also vandalized police vehicles by spray painting them with "DIE PIGS" and "ACAB,"—an acronym for "all cops are bastards"—a phrase commonly used by anarchist extremists. The individual is currently awaiting trial.
- » (U) In August 2014, the tires of local police vehicles in Bloomington, Indiana were slashed by unknown individual(s). The criminal act was claimed on a publically available website associated with anarchist extremism and stated that the act was in solidarity with the revolt in Ferguson and "Full force against the cops."

## (U) Possible Indicators of Plotting, Mitigating Factors, and Protective Measures

(U//FOUO) There are a number of potential behaviors and indicators of planned criminal or violent activities during May Day events. Some of these behavioral indicators may be constitutionally protected activities and should be supported by additional facts to justify increased suspicions. No single behavioral indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action. Independently, each indicator may represent legitimate recreational or commercial activities; however, multiple indicators could suggest a heightened threat.

(U//FOUO) Possible behaviors and indicators of planned criminal or violent activity during May Day events that would arouse the suspicion in a reasonable person include:





(U//FOUO) Possible factors that may mitigate the threat of anarchist extremists engaging in criminal or violent activity during May Day events include:



(U//FOUO) In light of the potential threats posed by US-based violent anarchist extremists, we urge security personnel to consider protective measures, which should integrate available equipment, personnel, current procedures, and information to improve threat detection. The following protective measures have been effective in assisting safety, security, and counterterrorism efforts, and may also be useful on, or in preparation for, May Day:



» (U//FOUO) (b) (7)(E), (b)(3)

#### - (U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call \$11 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx.

## (U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this intelligence bulletin is for official use only. No portion of this bulletin should be released to the media, the general public, or over non-secure Internet servers. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section by e-mail at FBI\_CTAS@ic.fbi.gov or the I&A Production Branch by e-mail at [5] (6)

(U) Tracked by: (b) (7)(E)



Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Customer Feedback Form

Product Title: (U//FOUO) Anarchist Extremists Likely to Exploit 1 May Events for Violent Activity

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Product's relevance to your mission	0	0	0	0	0	0
Product's timeliness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
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# FIELD ANALYSIS REPORT



Regional Analysis with National Perspective.

28 April 2016

# (U//FOUO) Washington: Modified Anarchist Extremist Tactics May Still Pose Threat to Law Enforcement

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC), with contributions from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A).

(U//FOUO) **Scope:** This Field Analysis Report (FAR) provides situational awareness to law enforcement in Washington, the Pacific Northwest, and other localities with anarchist extremist activity.\* It highlights recent suspected violent incidents in the area and puts them in strategic context.

# (U) Key Points



### IA-0113-16

<sup>\* (</sup>U//FOUO) DHS and WSFC define anarchist extremists as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence as a means of changing the government and society in support of the belief that all forms of capitalism and corporate globalization should be opposed and that governing institutions are unnecessary and harmful to society.

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# (U//FOUO) Modified Weapons and Tactics Still Pose a Significant Threat

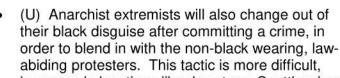


(U//FOUO) Over the last five years, anarchist extremists have begun modifying old tactics and weapons in order to better hide their identities, avoid culpability, and ultimately evade arrest for the violent crimes they perpetrate. Although property destruction continues to be the primary tactic of anarchist extremists in Washington, some have demonstrated a willingness to use violent tactics against people; most, however, are still unlikely to intentionally use lethal force.

(U//FOUO) According to a (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) with extensive experience investigating anarchist extremists, knowing the variety of tactics, weapons, and provocations commonly used is essential for LE officers to "effectively strategize for, safely interact with, and competently prosecute anarchist extremists." The following list includes some of the most noteworthy tactics and weapons reportedly used in Washington State.

# (U) Black Bloc Tactics

(U/FOUO) The "Black Bloc" strategy—where a large group of anarchist extremists dress in all-black clothing and face masks in an effort to appear unified, while remaining anonymous and indistinguishable—is used often due to its effectiveness. Individuals are able to conduct criminal acts, then quickly blend back into the black-clad mob, making it difficult for LE to identify individual perpetrators. (Not all anarchist extremists will be easily identifiable, nor will all individuals dressed in black attire actually be affiliated with the anarchist extremist movement.)





(U) Figure 1. Black Bloc participants break windows of Seattle businesses during the 2012 May Day riots.<sup>2</sup>

however, in locations like downtown Seattle where there are an abundance of security cameras, security guards, and plainclothes officers.<sup>3</sup>

(U//LES) As part of routine investigative process after a crime has been committed, the (b) (3) (A), (b) (7)(E) was able to use recorded surveillance video footage from the 2012 May Day riots to identify which anarchist extremists committed or participated in violent criminal acts, and prosecute them for those crimes.<sup>4</sup>

# (U) Blunt Weapons

(U//FOUO) Window smashing is another common tactic anarchist extremists use on storefront windows or police vehicle windows; accomplished by throwing rocks, bricks, or other heavy objects at windows or by swinging a bat, hammer, or similar baton-like item to shatter windows (see Figure 1). These items have also been used to physically assault police officers and other bystanders. Because LE is able to confiscate items deemed as "weapons which might be used to harm the officer or others nearby," many anarchist extremists have begun using other legal, and seemingly benign, items to disguise their intent.<sup>5</sup>



## (U) Arson/Incendiary Devices

(U//LES) Anarchist extremists have consistently used incendiary devices over the years—to the degree that they have become a signature of criminal anarchism. Most notably, anarchist extremists frequently use Molotov cocktails, (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) , and other (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) Possession of an incendiary device is illegal in Washington; as a result, more individuals have been found (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) .

<sup>\* (</sup>U) A Terry stop is a brief detention of a person by an LE officer based on reasonable suspicion of involvement in criminal activity but short of probable cause required for an arrest.

(U//LES) (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) ; (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) (U//LES) Distributed Components. (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) (U//LES) Slow-Burning Fuses and Pull-Ring Fuses. (see Figure 3) (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) (U//LES) **Arson**. The use of fire is a customary tactic for anarchist extremists. (b)(3), (b) (7)(E) are tactics often used by Washington anarchist extremists to rally attention to a specific message and enhance the

ambiance of chaos. For example, on 25 February 2013, Puget Sound Anarchists<sup>USPER</sup> claimed responsibility on their website for setting fire to a three-story, under-construction townhouse in Seattle's Central District, citing opposition to "gentrification" and ecological destruction as justifications for the arson, and included a call to action to other anarchists. According to the fire department, the fire caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage.<sup>17,\*</sup> Two years earlier, a small fire was set at a Seattle Police Department precinct station on 19 February 2011. Anarchist extremists are believed to be responsible, although no one claimed the arson. Firefighters found that an accelerant had been sprayed on the door, scorching the glass and frame, (b)(3), (b) (7)(E)

<sup>\* (</sup>U//FOUO) For the purposes of this *FAR*, we understand anarchist extremists' use of the term "gentrification" to mean the buying and renovation of houses and stores in deteriorated urban neighborhoods by upper- or middle-income persons, thus improving property values but often displacing low-income families and small businesses. Anarchist extremists oppose gentrification because they believe it is oppressive and part of a greater class war led by the privileged in society against lower-income and working-class persons.

# (U) Other Weapons

(U//FOUO) Not all attacks require physical contact with an intended target to be classified as a "violent act;" any action taken with the intent to cause bodily harm—with or without the use of a weapon—is considered violent. The following are additional examples of recent anarchist extremist violence using unconventional weapons against persons. Any one of these tactics can temporarily or permanently cause blindness or distraction, which can leave a victim vulnerable to further violent attacks.

- (U) *Chemical or Biohazard Assault*. Directly spitting on or dousing an individual (most often police officers) with a dry or liquid chemical (e.g., chlorine, acid, other corrosives) or a bodily fluid (e.g., urine, feces, saliva, blood), or a concoction thereof, are also tactics used by Washington's anarchist extremists. A skirmish between two groups of protesters during the 2013 May Day riots in Seattle resulted in bags of urine and flag poles being thrown at each other.<sup>20</sup> During the 2012 May Day riots, "at least one officer was hit by a bottle of urine, and a baggie of feces was found left among the protest debris."<sup>21</sup>
- (U) Paint Bombs. Devices containing paint that explode on impact have become a more widely used weapon by anarchist extremists in Washington State. A successful paint bombing is accomplished by splattering paint, throwing paint-filled bottles (Figure 4), or tossing paint-filled light bulbs at a specific target. While this is not a new tactic, there has been an increased use in paint bombs directed at people. During the "West Coast Days of Action against State Violence" from 8 to 9 April 2010, a demonstrator "tossed a paint bomb at [a] cop's head" as the mounted officer used his horse to push back protesters.<sup>22</sup>
- (U) Laser Pointers. High-powered laser light pointers are also reportedly used to "lase" the eyes of police officers, especially when used as a diversionary tactic or to intentionally obstruct apprehensions. During the 1999 World Trade Organization (WTO) riots in Seattle, "Protesters on the east side of the Exhibition Hall threw rocks and directed laser pointers at officers."<sup>24</sup>

## (U) Graffiti and Other Messaging

(U//FOUO) Anarchist extremists, as well as non-violent anarchists, are also known for vandalism by spray-painting the circle-A anarchist symbol or other—sometimes



(U) Figure 4. A pipe wrench, soda bottle filled with dark green paint, and a foot-long machete, painted with the word "death," confiscated during the 2015 May Day riots.<sup>23</sup>

threatening—messages on police cruisers, business walls, sidewalks, street signs, or on any other available surface.

- (U) In late April 2015, officers found "Kill SPD" ("Kill Seattle Police Department") painted on the wall of a bank in Seattle and a flier was circulated calling for the killing of officers." 25
- (U) Just prior to the 2012 May Day protests, "kidnap the mayor" was scrawled in a Seattle alleyway. The threat was particularly noteworthy, since someone later threw a rock through the mayor's living room window hours after the May Day demonstrations.<sup>26</sup>

(U//LES) In some circumstances, some LE agencies have established the issuance of *emergency* orders during special events—including various protests, demonstrations, and marches—whereby

ordinary items can be classified and seized as "potential weapons" for the purpose of protecting the public peace, safety and welfare once the item is used as weapon.

(U) Citing lessons learned from the 1999 WTO riots, the mayor issued an emergency order giving officers the power to preventively seize items that could be used as weapons during the 2012 May Day social justice rallies in Seattle.32,33 Confiscated items included tire irons: clubs: metal signs: sharpened tape-wrapped wooden stakes; metal poles; screw-topped wooden staffs: a shield made from a plastic traffic barrier; a corrugated metal portable barrier with sharp, jagged edges; and other objects that were used to inflict bodily harm or damage to property.34



(U) Figure 5. Anarchist extremist graffiti, including a circle-A anarchist symbol spray painted on a Seattle Police Department vehicle and "Kill SPD" pained on a bank wall in 2015.<sup>27-31</sup>

# (U) Shifting Motivating Factors

# (U) Trending Issues

(U//FOUO) Anarchist extremists typically commit criminal violent acts in solidarity with larger movements—including national and international causes—while exploiting legal protests, rallies, or demonstration events to cause mayhem. Traditional motivating factors include anti-capitalism, antigentrification, and immigrant-rights. Recent criminal and violent activities conducted by anarchist extremists, however, have taken advantage of larger social justice issues, such as opposition to perceived controversial police actions, racial tensions, and minimum wage increases. Therefore, upcoming related events could be opportunities for violence and mayhem.

#### (U) Local Issues

(U//FOUO) Between larger national events (e.g., May Day, political conventions, international hunger-strikes), various local issues have also provided pretext for concentrated anarchist extremist efforts. For example, the King County Juvenile Detention facility in Seattle has been the target of numerous attacks. Local anarchist extremists vehemently oppose the center, claiming the "juvenile punishment system targets youth of color, destroys lives, and does not make the public safer." Additionally, banks are routinely victimized by criminal activity in the absence of a larger trending cause; most attacks are intended to cause property damage such as smashing windows, destroying surveillance cameras, gluing locks, and damaging automated teller machines.

## (U) Denial of Exploitation

(U//FOUO) The ability of anarchist extremists to criminally or violently exploit another groups' legal, peaceful protest event is highly dependent upon who organized the event; as the leaders of these events often help manage who is allowed to participate, as well as the manner of conduct during the event. When their participation is strongly opposed, anarchist extremists have trouble gaining enough traction to act out their criminal objectives. For example, Washington State is home to a large number of environmental, animal rights, and labor union activists who legally protest their oppositions, and

consider criminal acts an ineffective campaign tool. Therefore, when anarchist extremists turn up to one of these events and attempt to compete for publicity or cause mayhem, they are often informed their presence is unwelcome and are asked to leave.

- (U) In May 2015, several anarchist extremists attempted to exploit an anti-police action rally at Woodruff Park, organized by various Olympia activist groups, but had not sought or obtained approval to participate in the event. When they arrived wearing masks, they were asked to demask or leave the march.<sup>36</sup>
- (U) The "Black Lives Matter" and Seattle's "Justice for Mike Brown" movements have also renounced ties to the anarchist extremist movement, asserting that "anarchy is not on [their] agenda." During one event, a woman with the Justice group stopped "protesters in black masks" from rolling a dumpster out for use against police."

#### (U) Out-of-Towners

(U//FOUO) Washington anarchist extremists do not always act alone; while the movement is loosely affiliated, solidarity with other anarchists can be a strong bond. As with the violently exploited protests in Ferguson, Missouri, only a small portion of protesters actually lived in Ferguson. Likewise, anarchist extremists from Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Vancouver, British Columbia, and elsewhere have been known to exploit protest events in Washington, just as some of Washington's local anarchist extremists travel to take advantage of events across the nation.

 (U) According to a federal affidavit, at least six Portland, Oregon anarchist extremists attended the 2012 May Day events in Seattle. Investigators claimed to have evidence that "the Portland residents were among the 50 or so black-clad protesters who smashed windows, clashed with police, and attacked members of the media around downtown Seattle during the demonstration."38

# (U) Range of Anarchist Extremist Activity over Last 5 Years

(U//FOUO) The majority of anarchist extremist violence in Washington occurs in Seattle and the capital city of Olympia. This is partly due to the perception that the densely populated cities will allow for larger, more impactful disruptions; both locations are more permissive political environments; and many of the nationally syndicated media outlets in the state are located in these locations, which draw more attention to their extremist cause and mayhem. The extent of anarchist extremist violence is difficult to enumerate, as much of the attempted and successful assaults and property damage goes unreported and unprosecuted. However, the following violent incidents from 2015 highlight the varied target selection by the anarchist extremist movement in Washington State, as well as a tendency of anarchist extremists to exploit legitimate protests for their attacks:

- (U//LES) On 5 September 2015, a US military member was attacked on his motorcycle by suspected anarchist extremists while stopped in traffic near a legally scheduled protest event in Olympia. The victim—who was flying Confederate flags on his bike and subsequently mistakenly identified as a white supremacist by the crowd—was sprayed in the face with mace and hit with a baseball bat and a glass bottle filled with red paint by self-proclaimed anarchists, according to media reporting.<sup>39,40</sup> There have been no arrests related to the incident.
- (U//LES) On 21 May 2015, suspected anarchist extremists violently clashed with suspected white supremacist extremists during a legal demonstration to support local police involved in an on-duty

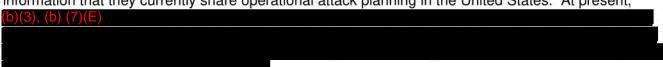
shooting of two African-Americans in Olympia. The brawl resulted in the smashing of vehicle windows, tire slashing, and physical assault, as well as the use of baseball bats by both sides, according to law enforcement and media reporting. Anarchist extremists in Washington State openly oppose white supremacist extremists, and routinely attend their events with the intent to disrupt or instigate violence. No arrests have been made.

- (U//LES) On 1 May 2015, suspected anarchist extremists in Seattle smashed windows of businesses, vandalized vehicles, lit trashcans and dumpsters on fire, and threw rocks and wrenches at police during May Day marches opposing capitalism and perceived police brutality. Several police officers and demonstrators were injured, according to law enforcement and media reporting.<sup>43,44</sup> Approximately 16 individuals were arrested during the riots.
- (U//LES) On 28 April 2015, Puget Sound Anarchists claimed responsibility on their website for torching a truck in a construction site across the street from the King County Juvenile Detention Center. The truck belongs to a company involved in the redevelopment of a nearby neighborhood and the building of the new youth jail; anarchist extremists view both projects as oppressive. The truck's tires were slashed, its fuel lines cut, and it eventually was completely destroyed by fire. According to the communiqué, the attack was committed in solidarity with the "rebels fighting the police in the streets of Baltimore" and in response to the perceived oppression by police and correctional systems against African-Americans and Hispanics, according to law enforcement and media reporting. No arrests have been made.

# (U) Outlook



(U//FOUO) Although some Washington-based US anarchist extremists share targets with their international counterparts—including those in Canada—we have no documented or credible information that they currently share operational attack planning in the United States. At present,

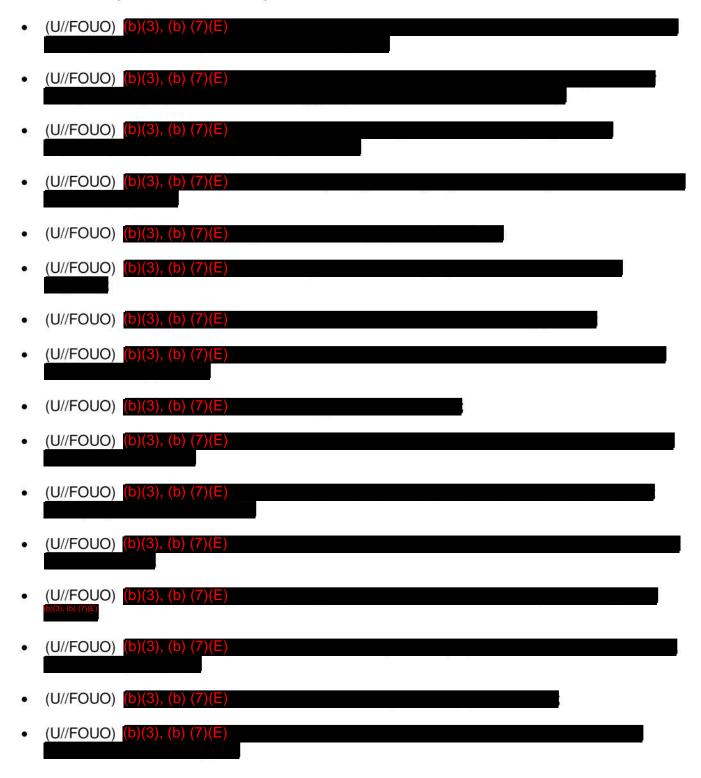


#### (U) Possible Indicators of Planned Anarchist Extremist Violence

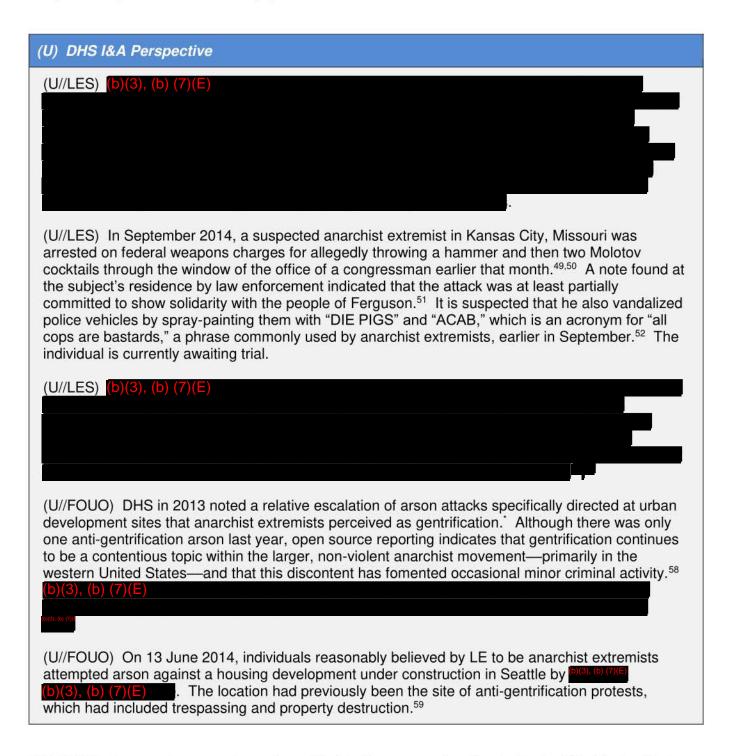
(U//FOUO) There are a number of potential behaviors and indicators of planned criminal or violent activities during legal protest events. Some of these behavioral indicators may be constitutionally protected activities and should be supported by additional facts to justify increased suspicions. No single behavioral indicator should be the sole basis for law enforcement action. The totality of

<sup>`(</sup>U//FOUO) DHS and WSFC define white supremacist extremists as groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons.

behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action. Independently, each indicator may represent legitimate recreational or commercial activities; however, multiple indicators could suggest a heightened threat. Possible behaviors and indicators of planned criminal or violent activity during legal protest events that would arouse the suspicion in a reasonable person include:



• (U//FOUO) (b)(3), (b) (7)(E)



(U//FOUO) Comments, requests, or shareable intelligence may be directed to the Washington State Fusion Center at 877-843-9522 or intelligence may be directed to the Washington State

<sup>\* (</sup>U//FOUO) For more information, please see DHS Intelligence Note (b)(3), (b) (7)(E)

#### (U//FOUO) Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) The information used in this FAR is (b)(3), (b) (7)(E)

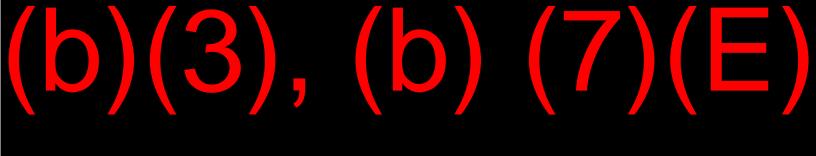
#### (U) Report Suspicious Activity

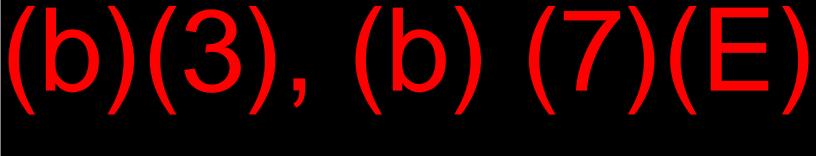
(U//FOUO) We urge law enforcement to remain vigilant and report indicators that anarchist extremists plan to commit acts of violence, or criminally exploit legal protest events with violence in the coming year, especially those related to "police brutality", events intended to confront perceived racism or white supremacy, and May Day events, based on the movement's proclivity at committing violence at such events in the past year.

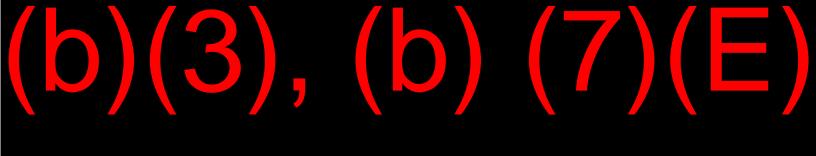
(U//FOUO) Additionally, we ask law enforcement to report incidents of anarchist extremists traveling to and from Washington to engage in violent acts, such as at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia in 2016—events which have historically been known to attract anarchist extremists from across the country intent on violently disrupting the conventions.

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx.

(U) Tracked by: (b) (7)(E)









Office of Intelligence and Analysis

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